

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer issued the following statement in response to the announcement of legislation to undermine the Clean Air Act:

“I am outraged that House Republicans are launching this attack on the most basic law that keeps our air safe to breathe. This effort, undertaken primarily for the benefit of corporate polluters, will effectively turn the Clean Air Act into the Dirty Air Act by gutting one of our nation’s most successful public health laws. Since 1970, the Clean Air Act has saved hundreds of thousands of lives and improved the health of Americans in every state. What’s more, the economic benefits of the Clean Air Act during this period – including fewer sick days and hospital visits – have outweighed its costs by more than 30 to 1. Undermining the Clean Air Act will threaten public health and our economy.

“In compliance with a 2007 Supreme Court decision, the Environmental Protection Agency is moving forward in a responsible way to update the Clean Air Act to limit global warming pollution. These limits – which apply only to the biggest and dirtiest sources – will help protect our economy and our people from the worst effects of global warming. It saddens me that some of my Republican colleagues continue to deny the science of global warming; they do so with reckless disregard for the devastation it will cause to our economy and our environment.”

Attempts to undermine the Clean Air Act will harm:

Public Health: Over the last 20 years the Clean Air Act prevented an estimated 843,000 asthma attacks, 18 million cases of respiratory illness among children, 672,000 cases of chronic bronchitis, 21,000 cases of heart disease and 200,000 premature deaths. (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), [EPA’s Clean Air Act Turns 40; Agency achieved significant health and environmental benefits](#), Sept 14, 2010)

The Economy: Since 1970, the economic benefits of the Clean Air Act – including fewer sick days and hospital visits – have exceeded costs by more than 30 to 1. (EPA, [he Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1990-2020](#), August 2010)

Energy Independence: The Clean Air Act tailpipe standards for model years 2012-2016 (which are part of the greenhouse gas regulations) will save Americans 77 billion gallons of fuel over the life of the vehicles sold in those years; this represents over \$240 billion in economic benefits including over \$182 billion in fuel savings. (Federal Register, [Table I.C.2-2, C.2-3, C.2-4 in EPA/NHTSA MY2012-2016 Final Rule](#), May 7, 2010)